

File No.: 04-1000-20-2021-572

December 21, 2021

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request of November 8, 2021 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, (the Act)***, for:

Email correspondence sent by Mayor Kennedy Stewart that reference encampments in Vancouver Parks. Date Range: January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed, (blacked out), under s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download this section here: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2021-572); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

[Signature on file]

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

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From: s.22(1)
To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/22/2020 3:01:51 PM
Subject: [EXT] Re: Crime. Please respond.

City of Vancouver security warning: Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

Dear Kennedy,

This is unbelievable. After months and months of writing it is laughable and embarrassing that you think it is appropriate to respond to me through an assistant. If I, working in s.22(1) through the holidays, has time to write to you, not once but > 150x I would think you would have the decency to at least respond once, personally.

You are responsible for people dying and the destruction of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood. Your placating remarks are hurtful and your neglect criminal. Your response only further confirms that you have no compassion for the city's most vulnerable.

I'm so disappointed and disgusted.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 22, 2020, at 11:59 AM, Stewart, Kennedy
<Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca> wrote:

>

> Hello s.22(1)

>

> Thank you for your letter. The Mayor has asked me to respond on his behalf.

>

> The Mayor shares your concern for the residents to Strathcona park, particularly as we approach the colder, rainier winter months.

>

> The encampment in Strathcona Park is a result of a housing crisis that exists across our province and country. There is a clear need for more housing in our city to address

Strathcona Park and other encampments. The Mayor has made housing his number one priority since his election in 2018.

>

> The Mayor called a Special Council meeting on September 11 to address the issue of unsheltered residents in our city. Following that meeting, Council approved 30 million dollars in spending for emergency options, such as hotels to provide shelter for those in need, including wrap around services.

>

> An injunction to remove the encampment would be a decision of the Park Board, not the Mayor or anyone else at the City. The Mayor's focus as a result is working with City staff, the provincial government, and the federal government to secure safe and adequate housing for those living unsheltered.

>

> The Mayor understands that marginalized groups, including Indigenous people, are overrepresented in Vancouver's homeless population as a result of the ongoing effects of colonization and residential schools. The need for culturally safe services are critical. City staff will be working to ensure the housing secured for people works for them.

>

> The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for safe housing even more clear in our city. The Mayor has been pushing for more urgent support from the provincial and federal governments since the pandemic started. This pressure from the Mayor has already delivered several housing commitments.

>

> The provincial government has made a commitment of 3500 units of social and supportive housing to Vancouver, this is in addition to the 1100 units of housing recently completed or underway. Over the summer, the provincial government has purchased 3 hotels in Vancouver to help with immediate and long term housing needs.

>

> The Mayor continues to work with City officials and senior levels of government along with Vancouver Coastal Health to accelerate the rollout of life-saving safe supply – a policy supported by the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire and Rescue, and the Provincial Public Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry as a way of stabilizing lives, ensuring more people keep their housing, and providing a pathway towards recovery. The Mayor recently passed a motion in support of decriminalizing simple possession of illicit drugs through a federal exemption. This approach will help Vancouver to move to a more health-centred approach to drug use.

>

> Thank you for taking the time to write about such an important issue, and for demonstrating compassion for your neighbours.

>

> Regards,

>

>
> Simka Marshall | Communications and Outreach Coordinator
> Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
> simka.marshall@vancouver.ca
> m. 604 754 8052

>
>
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: s.22(1)
> Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:05 AM
> To: Carr, Adriane <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>; De Genova, Melissa
<Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>; Hardwick, Colleen
<Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>; Boyle, Christine
<Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>; Wiebe, Michael <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>;
Swanson, Jean <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>; Fry, Pete
<Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>; Kirby-Yung, Sarah <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>;
Bligh, Rebecca <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>; Stewart, Kennedy
<Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>; Melanie Mark.MLA
<Melanie.Mark.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; jenny.kwan@parl.gc.ca; Dominato, Lisa
<Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>
> Subject: [EXT] Crime. Please respond.

>
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> City of Vancouver security warning: Do not click on links or open attachments unless
you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

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> _____
> Good morning,

>

> I am wondering what your plan is around the huge surge in crime in our
neighbourhood. Our community is considering walking the lanes between 2-6 am
when it seems breaking-ins are happening at an alarming rate. This is not our job, this
is not fair.

>

> I assume you have been talking to police and understand that every day and night x
months now houses, cars, garages (mine) and yards are been broken in to. Yesterday
an inflatable snowman was taken off a family's porch on prior. Caught on video.
Christmas wreaths have been disappearing packages stolen within minutes of decks.

>

> Our community is scared and these are real problems. My heart and hopefully yours
broke when I heard of the kids whose snowman was stolen. Really, this year when we
have so much pain we can't reassure families that their decorations are safe?

>

> Do better. Show up. Let us see that you feel our community matters. Because right now we feel invisible. And our kids, and all of us, deserve better.

>

> I await your response.

>

> s.22(1)

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> Sent from my iPhone